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WM. B. FOWLE, EDITOR.

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NEW LAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS RELATING TO
EDUCATION, WITH REMARKS.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Be it enacted, &c., as follows;—

Any town in the Commonwealth containing *less* than five hundred families or householders, may establish and maintain such schools as are mentioned and described in the fifth section of the twenty-third chapter of the Revised Statutes. [Approved, April 20, 1852.]

We do not see the force of this law, nor the need of it. The fifth section of the twenty-third chapter, referred to, *requires* every town containing *more* than five hundred families to maintain what is called a High School. The sixth section of the same chapter *allows* a town of less than five hundred families to establish a similar school. The above new law merely repeats the words of the sixth section, except that it uses the plural number *schools*, which must be an error, since the fifth section provides only for *one* school. According to the Digested Report of the Laws, lately published under the supervision of Mr. Mann, both the fifth and sixth sections of the twenty-third chapter are in force.

AN ACT IN RELATION TO DISTRICT SCHOOL HOUSES.

The provisions of an act entitled "an act concerning district school houses," passed in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty, shall apply equally to the lands connected with said school houses, and the apparatus and other property owned by the districts, and used for school purposes. [Approved, May 7, 1852.]

The act of 1850 provided for the town's taking possession of district school houses where districts have been abolished, but it said nothing of the land and other school property of the district, for which this act provides.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE POWERS OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

If, at any meeting of the legal voters of any school district, they cannot determine, by a vote of two-thirds of the voters present and voting thereon, where to place their school house, the selectmen of the town to which the said districts belong, shall determine where such school house shall be placed, in the same manner as is provided in the thirtieth section of the twenty-third chapter of the Revised Statutes. [Approved, April 20, 1852.]

The thirtieth section of the twenty-third chapter *authorized* the selectmen to locate the school house *on application* from certain persons of the district, but this act *requires* the selectmen to act without waiting for the application, that the children may not be deprived of a school by the delay and disagreement of the voters of the district. The words *districts belong* should be *district belongs*.

AN ACT CONCERNING DISTURBANCES OF SCHOOLS AND PUBLIC MEETINGS.

SECT. 1. Every justice of the peace, within his county, and the several Police Courts established by law, shall have jurisdiction concurrent with the Court of Common Pleas in their respective counties, and the Police Court of the city of Boston shall have jurisdiction concurrent with the Municipal Court, of the offence specified in an act passed the twenty-seventh day of March, in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-nine, entitled "an act to prevent disturbances of schools and public meetings," when said offence is not of an aggravated nature; *provided, however,* that such justices and the Police Courts aforesaid shall punish such

offence by imprisonment in the county jail or house of correction not more than thirty days, or by fine not exceeding ten dollars, saving to the party convicted the right of appeal as in other cases.
[Approved, May 13, 1852.]

The act of 1849 referred to, says, "Every person who shall wilfully interrupt or disturb any school or other assembly of people met for a lawful purpose, within the place of such meeting or out of it, shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not more than thirty days, or by fine not exceeding fifty dollars." This act determines the *jurisdiction* in the case, and reduces the fine. Are not those who whisper and talk at church and public lectures liable to be fined under this statute? We are often more annoyed in this way than by any violent disturbance.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ATTENDANCE OF CHILDREN AT SCHOOLS.

SECT. 1. Every person who shall have any child under his control between the ages of eight and fourteen years, shall send such child to some public school within the town or city in which he resides, during at least twelve weeks, if the public schools within such town or city shall be so long kept, in each and every year during which such child shall be under his control, six weeks of which shall be consecutive.

SECT. 2. Every person who shall violate the provisions of the first section of this act shall forfeit, to the use of such town or city, a sum not exceeding twenty dollars, to be recovered by complaint or indictment.

SECT. 3. It shall be the duty of the school committee in the several towns or cities to inquire into all cases of violation of the first section of this act, and to ascertain of the persons violating the same, the reasons, if any, for such violation, and they shall report such cases, together with such reasons, if any, to the town or city, in their annual report; but they shall not report any cases such as are provided for by the fourth section of this act.

SECT. 4. If, upon enquiry by the school committee, it shall appear, or if, upon the trial of any complaint or indictment under this act, it shall appear that such child has attended some school not in the town or city in which he resides, for the time required by this act, or has been otherwise furnished with the means of education for a like period of time, or has already acquired those branches of learning which are taught in common schools, or if it shall appear that his bodily or mental condition has been such as to prevent his attendance at school, or his acquisition of learning for such a period of time, or that the person having the control of

such child is not able, by reason of poverty, to send such child to school, or to furnish him with the means of education, then such person shall be held not to have violated the provisions of this act.

SECT. 5. It shall be the duty of the treasurer of the town or city to prosecute all violations of this act. [Approved, May 18, 1852]

This is an act of justice to those who are taxed to support public schools, on the ground that education is a safeguard to life, liberty and property; for, there is no justice in taxing men who have no children, if the children of others are not compelled to go to school. We think the term of twelve weeks too short, and the excusing of any on the ground of poverty, will probably nullify the act. The children thus excused are the very ones that ought to be educated. The law already requires the town to provide the necessary books, and the necessary clothes should be provided for also, as they would be if the children were paupers. It would be money well laid out, whether we consider the effect of education upon the future usefulness of the child, or the effect of cleanliness upon the school. Many children of neat parents are kept from the public schools because some poor children who attend are not decently clad. A ladies' sewing circle for the purpose of clothing such children would be more useful than many we have known.

This statute seems to conflict with that of 1850, referred to in the first section of the following statute, for that provides for restraining *absentees*, as well as truants, and appoints others than the school committees to look after and punish them. We fear there will be no cure for truancy and absence until the State requires the towns to have schools that children will love to attend. It is meritorious in a child to run away from many that are now tolerated in the towns of Massachusetts, and, indeed of all New-England. We also consider it wrong to compel vicious children to attend the common schools. They should be taught separately.

**AN ACT IN ADDITION TO "AN ACT CONCERNING TRUANT CHILDREN
AND ABSENTEES FROM SCHOOLS."**

SECT. 1. Any minor between the ages of six and fifteen years, convicted under the provisions of an act entitled "an act concerning truant children and absentees from school," passed in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty, of being an habitual truant, or of not attending school, or of being without any regular and lawful occupation, or (of) growing up in ignorance, may, at the discretion of the justice of the peace or judicial officer having jurisdiction of the case, instead of the fine mentioned in the first

section of said act, be committed to any such institution of instruction, house of reformation, or suitable situation, as may be provided for the purpose under the authority given in said first section, for such time as such justice or judicial officer may determine, not exceeding one year.

SECT. 2. Any minor convicted of either of said offences, and sentenced to pay a fine as provided in the first section of the act to which this is in addition, may, in default of payment thereof, be committed to said institution of instruction, house of reformation, or suitable situation provided as aforesaid, or to the county jail, as provided in case of non-payment of other fines. And upon proof that said minor is unable to pay said fine, and has no parent, guardian, or person chargeable with his support, able to pay the same, he may be discharged by said justice or judicial officer, whenever he shall see fit.

SECT. 3. If any person so convicted be not discharged as aforesaid, he shall be discharged according to the provisions of the third section of the one hundred and forty-fifth chapter of the Revised Statutes.

SECT. 4. The powers of the justice of the peace or judicial officer, under this act and the act to which this is in addition, in all unfinished cases shall continue under any reappointment to the same office, provided there be no interval between the expiration and reappointment to said office.

SECT. 5. The third section of the act entitled "an act concerning truant children and absentees from school," passed in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty, is hereby repealed.
[Approved, May 20, 1852.]

The first section authorizes the *committing* of children, which was not provided for in the statute of 1850. The second section allows the commutation from fine to commitment, and allows the magistrate to discharge offenders who are unable to pay. The third section is useless, the convict being entitled to a discharge without it, under the one hundred and forty-fifth chapter of the Revised Statutes referred to. Section fifth repeals a section of the act of 1850, which, if let alone, would have rendered the first and second sections of the above act unnecessary. We do not see why the Legislature could not have condensed the acts of 1850, and of May 18 and 20, 1852, into one act, and not have amended, repealed, and confounded all three as it has ingeniously done.

RESOLVE IN FAVOR OF TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.

Resolved, That there be paid, annually, out of the treasury, the sum of twelve hundred and fifty dollars, in addition to the sums heretofore granted, for the purpose of defraying the expenses of teachers' institutes, and for increasing their number under the direction of the board of education, and that his excellency the governor, be authorized to draw his warrant accordingly.
[Approved, January 30, 1852.]

AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHERS' INSTITUTES.

The sums appropriated to defray the expenses of teachers' institutes, by an act entitled "an act to establish teachers' institutes," passed in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, and by a resolve entitled "a resolve concerning teachers' institutes," passed in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty, may be apportioned in such a manner as the Board of Education shall determine; *provided*, that not more than three hundred and fifty dollars shall be expended upon any one institute. [Approved, May 13, 1852.]

The Resolve provides the necessary funds for holding Institutes in the *cities*.

The act establishing Teachers' Institutes required them to continue ten working days, and granted \$200 for the expenses of each. The act of March, 1849, allowed the Board to shorten the term to one week, with the same allowance of \$200. The resolve of 1850, raised the allowance for expenses, to \$250 for each. The act of May 13, allows the Board, and that means their Secretary, to lay out the money as they please, provided no Institute costs more than \$350. We have already given our opinion on the subject of Institutes. There is not the least reason for supposing that the Institutes held under the present Secretary are more practical, more popular, or more useful than those held under Mr. Mann. An Institute now lasts about half as long as it did then, and yet costs sometimes nearly twice as much. Mr. Mann attended as faithfully as the present Secretary does, and taught and lectured as much. He had no Assistant Secretary, no Agents with salaries, whom he could use as teachers or lecturers, and his expenses were not paid, as those of the present Secretary are. There must be some leakage or the Institutes would not have become so much more expensive. We should not hesitate to come under bonds to furnish better ones, more applicable to the wants of the districts, and more useful to the young teachers, at about one half of the present expense. As we have conducted more than sixty Institutes, we must not be suspected of speaking at random, or with a "captious" spirit.

RESOLVE CONCERNING THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOLS.

Resolved, That the sum of eight thousand two hundred dollars annually, for three years from the first of January next, be appropriated to the support of the State Normal Schools, under the direction of the board of education; the said amount to be deducted from the proceeds of the public lands, or the school fund, according to the provisions of the act of the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, chapter 219, entitled "an act to designate the fund for the payment of the land agent, and of appropriations for educational purposes;" and that his excellency the governor be authorized to draw his warrants accordingly. [Approved, May 13, 1852.]

We are glad to see this appropriation continued, although we are by no means satisfied that the Normal Schools are what they may be made. We have so freely expressed our opinion on this subject, that we need not enlarge. These schools will never do the work of supplying our district schools with a higher order of teachers, until the State pays all the expenses of the pupils, taking a bond of each to refund from the proceeds of his subsequent labors; each pupil obligating himself to teach, at least till the debt is paid. We have enlarged upon this idea in previous numbers, and can not now repeat. The Academy at West Point is managed on a better plan than these schools, and sends forth better teachers, and so do many Academies not supported by the State.

RESOLVE CONCERNING THE STATE NORMAL SCHOOL AT WEST NEWTON.

Resolved, That the sum of six thousand dollars be, and the same is hereby appropriated from the proceeds of the public lands or the school fund, according to the provisions of the act of one thousand eight hundred and forty-six, chapter two hundred and nineteen, to defray the expenses of providing a more commodious site and building, and the necessary appurtenances and apparatus for the accommodation of the State Normal School, now established at West Newton, and that the same be expended for that purpose, under the direction of the board of education, upon whose requisition the governor is hereby authorized to draw his warrant upon the treasurer to the amount aforesaid.

Resolved, That the board of education be authorized to purchase and receive grants of land in the name of the Commonwealth, and in suitable quantity, for the site of said building and the accommodation of said school, and that, before selecting said site, they be directed to receive propositions from towns or individuals in aid of the objects of these resolves, and afterwards to make such selection as will, in their opinion, best subserve the

interests and accommodate (meet) the wants of said school. But the said board of education shall limit the time for receiving such proposition to a term not exceeding six months from the time of the passage of this resolve. [Approved, May 13, 1852.]

Here is another movement the exact object of which does not appear. By admitting pupils who are too young and too imperfectly instructed into this Normal School, to say nothing of admitting a considerable number from other States, the School at the beginning of a term appears to be crowded and the cry for a larger room is set up. Now, the truth is, that, by admitting young ladies at sixteen years of age, who seldom stay more than a year, and then are not mature enough to be entrusted with a school; by admitting poorly instructed misses, who must be taught in the Normal School what they ought to know before entering; by receiving many who never intend to become teachers of common schools in Massachusetts, this School appears to have increased in numbers since its early days, but, if properly managed, no such want would be felt. One circumstance that has tended to fill the school is, that more than one fourth of the pupils come from Boston, from which city, until lately, not one was received. The Board of Education cannot be ignorant that the City is discussing the question of a Normal School of its own, and will, probably, establish one in a few weeks or months at farthest. Should this take place, the Boston School will undoubtedly be superior to the State School, and the pupils who now come from the city at some expense, will prefer to stay at home. Nearly as many come from other States, eighteen being in the present school, conditionally. The want of room, therefore, is not the true reason for the proposed removal.

It is probable that some other town, supposing that it is an advantage, in a pecuniary point of view, as well as in an intellectual one, to have such a school within its borders, is at work in the matter. Now the truth is, that, in a pecuniary point of view, the School is of little advantage to West Newton. More than one-half of the pupils come from Boston and other places every morning, and return in the afternoon. Of course, these spend nothing in Newton. Those who board here pay two dollars a week for board and washing, and nobody can get rich by this. The pupils are generally poor, and buy little or nothing, as the small number of shops is the village proves. The railroad makes two or three hundred dollars a term in transporting the pupils from Boston and elsewhere, but this does not help the village. As to the intellectual advantage of having the school in the village, it is a nullity. **The teacher takes no part in the intellectual exercises of the village,**

and carefully avoids them, and by his example discourages the pupils from attending them. There is a fine library which they may enjoy, but they hardly touch it ; there are free lectures, discussions and other meetings, at least once a week, but the hour of study is so arranged that the pupil can never attend. Few, very few of the pupils visit, or in any way associate with any families but those in which they board, and all visiting is discouraged. We cannot conceive of a greater mistake ; for, seclusion from society is not the best way to prepare a teacher for usefulness ; and a refusal to participate in the intellectual movements of the village is not the surest way to awaken sympathy, activity and respect towards the School. If the School should be withdrawn, not a dozen persons would probably know it, and not half a dozen would care for it. But if the School were what it might be made ; if the teacher were public spirited, and ready to coöperate, if incompetent to lead, in the literary entertainments of the village ; if the pupils were, as they ought to be, models of young ladies, how easily might they increase the happiness, and elevate the society of the village, and make the School a blessing to it, instead of a blank. The truths we utter are very unwelcome to some ears, but they are truths, and we shall feel it to be our duty to speak them, until the Board of Education, the Legislature, and the people, not only have ears, but ears to hear. We have no other interest in the matter than every other citizen of Massachusetts.

JOHNNY PEAK'S ACCIDENT. EDITORIAL.

Little Johnny Peak was a pretty good boy, in so far as he was obedient to his parents and to his teacher, and always told the truth, and was willing to let his little play-fellows share in his cake and his amusements ; but Johnny was what children call a cry-baby, and wept so easily, and boo-hooed so loudly at every trifle which did not suit him, that he did not enjoy half the credit which his good qualities really entitled him to claim. One day, as he was playing with a small crooked stick of wood, he hit himself on the shin, and, as usual, set up a cry that would have done credit to him had he intended to do the crying of a year in five minutes. While he was bawling at this rate, an old farmer came by and very naturally asked him what was the matter ? " O my leg ! my leg ! " said Johnny " my leg ! my leg ! " " Let me see your leg," said the compassionate man. So Johnny pulled up his trowsers, and pulled down his stocking, and the man looked and

felt and felt, and looked again, but not seeing any appearance of blood or of bruise, he looked Johnny solemnly in the face, and said, "I'll tell you what it is, young man, you have certainly got a bone in your leg." "Got a what?" screamed Johnny. "Got a bone," repeated the man, "and the sooner you let your mother know it, the better." The man then went away, and Johnny, frightened almost to death at his danger, began to bawl again more lustily than ever. In a few minutes, Jim Slack, who was playing truant, heard him, and, coming up, said "what is the matter? what ails you, Johnny?" "I've got a bone in my leg," said the frightened boy, "and I want to get home to my mother." "Why do n't you get up and walk home?" said Jim. "I can't stir a step," said Johnny, "and I shall die if I'm left here." "Hold still," said Jim, who was really a kind boy, and a pretty good one, though he did love the woods and the fields better than he did committing books that he did not understand to memory; "Hold still!" said he, "and I'll try to get some other boys to help me carry you home."

Jim ran off to a grove where he knew some other truants were playing, and found half a dozen there. "Come along with me!" said he, "Johnny Peak has got a bone in his leg, and can't walk a step, and you must help me carry him home." Off they all set, and meeting several other boys on the way, they told them of the dreadful accident that had happened to Johnny, and all hands, moved by curiosity or compassion, rushed to the rescue.

Johnny, seeing so many boys, concluded that it was a very serious affair, and he screamed accordingly. "Poor Johnny!" said Jim, "do n't cry so, and we'll try to carry you home. Here! Jack Smith, lift that gate off the hinges, and we'll lay Johnny upon it, and then, boys, lay hold and lift, every one of you; but first, Jack, let's you and I lay Johnny carefully on the gate." The moment they took hold of the poor boy, he began to scream as if his legs were sticks of barley candy, and in danger of being snapt into a dozen pieces. "Gently, gently, Jack!" said the compassionate Jim, and, as gently as a mother would handle her infant, Johnny was placed upon the gate, on which half a dozen of the other boys had laid their jackets. "They tell us how naughty and wicked it is to play truant," said Jim to his friend Jack, "but if we had n't played truant, I should like to know what would have become of poor Johnny." As they moved on in a sort of funeral procession, one person after another saw them, and inquired what was the matter, and, supposing it was a dreadful thing to have a bone in one's leg, they joined in the procession, and by the time they reached Johnny's home, it would have puzzled some boys, who have ciphered as far as simple multiplication,

to count the men and women, and boys and girls that crowded around the bier on which Johnny was carried by his earnest and hard-working companions.

When they came near the house, a thoughtful woman of the crowd, thinking that the dreadful news should not be allowed to break like a water-spout upon the poor mother, proposed that the bearers should stop, and a committee be sent gradually to prepare the mother for the reception of her suffering son. In the course of the procession, Johnny, feeling no particular pain, and being tired of screaming, had become very quiet, and this excited more and more the sympathy of the crowd, for they said at once, "the poor boy is too exhausted even to cry, and he will die before he gets home." The thoughtful woman who had proposed the committee, was herself despatched to the house, and finding Johnny's mother humming a cheerful air, as she was plying her needle, "poor woman," said she, "she little thinks how soon all her joy is to be turned to mourning." "Mrs. Peak," said she, as the mother welcomed her with a smile, "have you a son named John?" "I hope so," said Mrs. Peak, "why do you ask the question?" "Is he at home?" "At home!" said Mrs. Peak, alarmed, not so much at the words as at the tone of the question. "At home! no, I told him he might go to play." "Has anything happened to him?" "No! what do you mean?" said the alarmed mother. "Have you heard of anything?" "There is a report," said the woman, trying to be very cautious and cunning at the same time, "there is a report that he has been seriously injured." "How? where is he?" said the distracted mother, as she hurried into the next room for her bonnet. On her return, the bier and the bearers stood before the door. "My dear Johnny!" exclaimed the affectionate mother, "what has happened to you?" "O, mother!" said he, crying again at the top of his lungs, not from any pain of his own, but because of his mother's distress, "O, mother! I was playing with a crooked cat-stick, and it flew up and hit me on the leg, and almost killed me, and then a man came by and told me he believed I had a bone in my leg, and had better go home to my mother." Johnny spoke this in so loud a tone that all the crowd heard it, and some of the men and women seeing through the joke, laughed out boisterously. The mother soon laughed, too, for, when she asked Johnny which leg was hurt, he could not certainly tell, and began to kick lustily with both at the boys around, who were beginning to plague him, now he was safe, with as hearty good will as they had pitied him when they had supposed him in danger. "Three cheers for Johnny Peak!" said one of the rogues, and three cheers were given by the crowd. "Three cheers for Johnny's cat-stick!"

said Jim Slack, and the crowd gave three cheers again. "Three cheers for the bone in Johnny's leg!" said Jack Smith. The crowd gave three lusty cheers, and then forcing Billy Peabody to lie upon the gate, they ran off, some shouting, and some boo-hooing as little Johnny did when the dreadful accident first happened to him.

THE CURSE OF FRANCE.

Rev. Leon Pilate, at a public meeting held in London, during last May, said:—

"It has been said, that Popery does not reign any longer in France; and it is true that the people do not believe in Popery. More than ten years spent in the missionary career in France has shown me clearly, that Popery has lost its hold on the minds of the people,—that it has fallen below the level of the public conscience. But there is something worse, if possible, than Popery, and that is, the moral stain which it leaves behind it when it departs from a nation. Sometimes it is the case, that a disease which attacks the body is not so bad as the effect which it leaves. I believe it is frequently so in typhus fever. And let me say, the typhus is far from being so bad a thing physically as Popery is morally. The French are not Roman Catholics now as a nation; but Popery has made us what we now are. We have not yet washed away the mud with which it has covered us. My language is perhaps strong when I speak of Popery; but it is far from being so strong as my feelings toward it. I was once held in the chains of Popery. I remember it. I have been under the grinding, iron rule of the priests. But my soul has escaped from the net of this destroyer of souls, and I am therefore authorized, perhaps, to speak of Popery as an accursed system, which has made France a nation of infidels.

My experience as a man has been very much like the experience of the nation itself. When a child, I was sent to the priests as to the highest Divine authority, which was to teach me my duty. I went, listened to them, bowed before them, and believed everything. But I could not help reading, thinking, hearing, talking, looking about me, and seeing what was going on in the world; and when I detected falsehood in Popery, not thinking that Christianity was different from Popery, but believing that Christianity and Popery were one and the same thing, I gave up Popery and Christianity too, and became a thorough infidel. This is the history also of the French nation. When a child, France fell into

the hands of the priests, receiving Popery in the place of Christianity, and grew up in it; but the nation had detected falsehood in Popery, and given it up altogether; and, guided by Voltaire and the Encyclopædists, has become a nation of infidels. What do we want? The Gospel! (Cheers.) Of revolution we have had enough,—indeed, too much. In these fierce struggles much of the best blood of France has been shed, and the noblest hearts have been broken. Of glory in industry and the fine arts, we have had plenty. It is generally the share of heathen nations to have such glory also. The Greeks had plenty of it. Of military glory we have had enough,—too much. I hate it, and cannot bear the thought of it. What do we want, then? We want the Gospel. O, I wish I could communicate to every heart in this assembly the desire which I feel in my own to have the Gospel preached throughout France."

[What is here so well and truly said of France, is also true of Ireland, with the exception that the latter country has not rushed into infidelity. The prevalent ignorance will prevent this, perhaps, but it is by no means certain that the torpidity of Ireland can be more easily revivified, than the over activity of France can be restrained. What is to hinder this country from becoming what France or Ireland is? Certainly not our Common Schools as now conducted. ED.]

DIALOGUE BETWEEN A PUBLISHER AND HIS PATRON.

"Honi soit qui mal y pense."

Patron.—You need not urge payment so furiously. You have called on us to pay a dozen times.

Publisher.—Not exactly so, we have called on you a dozen times to pay.

Pat.—Well that is eleven times too many, and you should be ashamed to ask so many times for one poor dollar.

Pub.—We feel ashamed, and nothing but necessity could drive us to it. Yet, if you will not take offence, we would suggest that, if 'tis shame in us to ask payment of such an honest debt, 'tis double shame in him who does not pay; and if 'tis meanness to require the payment of so small a debt, 'tis double meanness not to pay the trifle.

Pat.—You urge the payment as if you suppose I never intend to pay.

Pub.—The best ground for supposing so, lies in the fact that you do not pay. What proof have I that he who obeys not God will ever turn to him?

Pat.—You mix great things with small.

Pub.—No, He hath said by his Apostle, “Owe no man anything;” and he who does incur a debt he never intends to pay, or he who has incurred one honestly, and, being unable to pay, yet offers no excuse, breaks the commandment, and must repent or not expect forgiveness.

Pat.—The world will not to ruin fall if this great debt remains unpaid!

Pub.—My little world may not survive the shock. It is a small affair, but the smallness is on your part, not on mine. If payment you refuse because you owe but one poor dollar, then your neighbor may refuse, and so may thousands do, with as good reason, and each but one dollar save, while I lose thousands. It is far worse to withhold one dollar from the poor than to withhold a thousand from the rich, though this is no excuse, if you can pay.

Pat.—Yet still a dollar seems too trifling for contention such as this.

Pub.—It takes two parties to make a quarrel, and though the cause of the contention be a trifle, I see not why 'tis smaller to one party than to the other. But the amount is less important to yourself than one thing else that has not yet been named.

Pat.—Out with it! Let me know the worst. I have subscribed and do intend to pay. What lack I yet?

Pub.—Subscription implies obligation, promise. You have promised me to pay in advance, and have not paid at all. If 'tis mean in me to payment ask for one poor dollar, when the debt is just, and I have a right to ask, then surely it is meaner far to break one's promise for that same poor dollar.

Pat.—Well you may erase my name, I do not want your Journal longer.

Pub.—I think you mean you do not *wish* it, and I interpret thus your thought. You will continue to receive the publication if I will continue to endure the wrong. But if you are required to do but justice, and to keep your promise, you will no longer patronize the work!

Pat.—I have a faint suspicion that I have paid already.

Pub.—I have more than a faint suspicion that you have not paid; and, let me add, that this suspicion would have come with better grace if sooner named. He who endeavors to extenuate a fault that he allows, when he has failed to extenuate, should not

deny that any fault has been committed, or claim that reparation has been made already.

Pat.—The shortest way is to pay the dollar, for I hate disputes.

Pub.—I hate them too, especially when I have the worst of the argument. There, sir, is your bill received.

Pat.—This is the fifth bill I have received for this small sum.

Pub.—It is the fifth that I have written for the same small sum. The hardship is in writing not in receiving so many.

Pat.—You seem to have the argument at your tongue's end.

Pub.—I have to rehearse it several times a day. I wish I could forget and never need it.

Pat.—Why send the paper till you have the pay?

Pub.—I have the promise, and should give offence to say it was not worth a dollar. But it is fair to inquire why you receive the paper, till you pay; the rule works both ways, surely.

Pat.—You have your profit on the work or you would not publish it.

Pub.—I should little gain did all subscribers pay, but, as it is, I nothing gain, and only work for the good that I may do. (*Receiving the dollar,*) I thank you, sir.

Pat.—It hardly deserves thanks.

Pub.—I do not thank you for the justice done, but for the trouble I am saved. It costs as much thus to collect the debts, as to prepare and publish all the work. Ought I not then to thank you as I do? We publishers shall ne'er be doomed with Sisiphus hereafter to roll heavy stones up hill, and make no progress; but having rolled them up so long, methinks, we shall be rather doomed to roll them down hereafter, on such delinquents as forget us here.

EXCERPTA CORRIGENDA.

"Another rattlesnake was killed in Milton, last week, by two men, that had seven rattles."—*Boston Paper.* It is a fair subject of inquiry where the men's rattle were located.

"Six persons on a fishing excursion, Saturday afternoon, were grounded in their boat, on a rock, a few miles north of Fort Warren, which soon after sunk."—*Same Paper.* It seems to be doubtful whether it was the rock or the fort that sunk. The boat, being grounded on the rock, could not possibly sink.

"Hon. A. H., a Judge of Probate in Conn., was found dead in his bed—a disease of the heart."—*Same Paper.* The bed is a dreadful disease when it reaches the heart. "A little more sleep and a little more slumber" killed many in the days of the wise king.

"In King's Co., Ireland, a prisoner threw a large stone at the presiding judge, which came very near injuring him seriously, and received, in consequence, eighteen months additional imprisonment."—*Same Paper.* It is to be hoped that it will not show such "contempt of court" again.

ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL MEETINGS.

The AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF INSTRUCTION, the oldest Institution of the kind in the United States, holds a meeting at Troy, N. Y. August 6th, 7th and 9th. Those who do not wish to be punished, as we were last year, for not attending its meeting, will be on the ground and support in person, what unfortunately we could only support with our tongue and pen. Superior exercises are promised.

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION will hold a session at Newark, N. J. August 10. This is a comparatively new Institution, and its objects cannot essentially differ from those of the INSTITUTE, but there is ample room for both, and we have no doubt that the friends of education will be gratified and improved by attending the exercises.

THE LAW IN REGARD TO PERIODICALS.

Subscribers who do not give express notice to the contrary, are considered as continuing. If the paper continues to be sent, one of two things is certain,—either the notice has not reached the Publisher, or the subscriber owes some arrearages, and by law is responsible for all papers sent, until the whole arrearage is paid. It is very common for subscribers erroneously to suppose they have given notice to the Publisher, because they have spoken to the Postmaster, or refused to take the paper out of the office. Because a subscription is payable *in advance*, he who pays for one year has no right to expect that the paper will not be sent a second year, because he does not send his dollar. We do our duty, whether he does his or not.

NOTICE.

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